

SUGAR and PLANTATION NEWS

LABOR PROBLEM OF PLANTERS GROWING STILL MORE TRYING

Planters' Association Through Labor Bureau Starts Canvass For Available Supply

DATA ON FILIPINOS AND JAPANESE SOUGHT

Hawaiians Would Find Work If They Would Apply But Are Not Included In Canvass

Steps are being taken by the labor bureau of the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association to secure a census of the number of Filipino and Japanese, not now employed on the sugar plantations that may be drawn from native and unessential work into the productive and essential sugar industry.

Actual and immediate needs of the plantations for labor are in excess of 2500 men. They could use more if they had them but they could get along very well with 3500. Bad as is this situation the future looks up still more threatening for more men are required to bring the two new regiments up to required strength and it is said that there will be a call by the end of the month for a thousand more men. Fully half of these new draftees and probably more would be drawn from the ranks of agricultural labor.

Will Need Three Thousand

Thus far in the draft fifty-five percent of those taken have been Filipinos. Of the thousand required it is safe to say that 500 will be taken from the plantations leaving the actual immediate necessity 3000 workers. For these the crop is actually suffering.

So far as can be learned the labor shortage has not actually affected the planting of the new cane and may not do so directly, that is to say the plantations are probably enough men to plant the crop but there is considerable talk of curtailing the crop of two years hence. This might be done by not planting, by not attempting to cultivate or by not cutting.

This talk is similar to that which was heard when free sugar threatened last year. Then it was said that the plantations might cease to cultivate their least prolific fields and that is the course that is now spoken of. Even if the fields be planted as usual, the present labor available would not be able to cultivate and free from weeds the entire area. To harvest the next crop and to cultivate the young cane, all of the fields, with the present labor supply is impracticable.

Canvass Is Started

With no other course from which labor can be secured immediately it is natural that the planters should turn their attention to the supply that may possibly be secured from the islands, from Filipinos and Japanese that are not now engaged in essential industry and that is what is being done. A canvass is being made in Honolulu and outside on this island to find out just how many are available and can be turned into fields where their work will be of value.

If, as has been intimated, the coming call for 1000 men be supplemented by a further call the condition will be proportionately worse according to the ratio of those taken from the plantations. There is no such force of suitable plantation labor secureable in the islands so that the best that is hoped from this source is improvement, not cure of the ill.

Chance For Hawaiians

It is admitted that there are a large number of Hawaiians who would be welcomed on the plantations if they would apply for the work but, thus far, no canvass of these is being made. It has been said by Hawaiians that the plantation work pays insufficiently.

Pay and Perquisites

The poorest paid regular worker in the fields of the cane plantations receives \$20 a month for 26 days work. To this is added the monthly bonus which is one-third of that wage. This gives the cash returns for the lowest paid \$26.67 but in addition to this there is free house rent, free water for domestic purposes, certain amount of free wool for fuel, free medical and hospital attendance and free medicines. These items materially increase the compensation with an equivalent for actual cash and at the end of the bonus year there is a further addition to cash compensation. Then is paid the balance over and above the amount already received in monthly bonus money. Thus far this year the bonus rate is fifty-five percent of the wages earned. This means an added payment of twenty-two percent in present prices bringing the pay up to practically \$31 a month with other perquisites.

Chance To Improve

The Hawaiian need not remain a common laborer in the fields. There are more lucrative changes open to him in plantation work, dependent upon industry, attention and initiative.

For the health of himself and his family the Hawaiian might well turn his attention to plantation work. The environment of the plantation is better suited to health. To get out of the tenements and the slums is essential to health which cannot be bought but may be secured by seeking proper surroundings and this feature is for

American Factors Stock Will Soon Be Put On Sale

Subscriptions Are Likely To Be Taken Some Time During The Coming Week—Has Been Properly Incorporated

Booking of applications for stock in American Factors, Limited, the corporation that is to be the successor of H. Hackfeld & Company in the sugar world is expected to start next week. A prospectus is being drawn and will be passed upon by the directors of the company at a meeting which, it is expected, will be held Monday.

American Factors, Limited, is now duly incorporated. The application for articles of incorporation was filed last Saturday and has been duly approved and the charter issued. Within a few days the transfer will be made of the Hackfeld business simultaneously with the increase of the capital stock of the new company from \$10,000 to \$5,000,000.

Sugarcane that were held out by opponents of the reorganization plan have all been hunted into their lairs and have retired to die. The plantations and other companies for which Hackfeld & Company was agent have all transferred their allegiance to the new company and there was no difficulty whatever with the transfer of that business, rumorologists to the contrary, notwithstanding. The rumor that the companies would not take the action which they since have taken did have a threatening effect at one time but it proved to be absolutely without foundation.

Congratulations have been received from the custodian on the way the matter has been handled and it is considered remarkable that a big business deal of this kind could go through with so little difficulty once plans were set in motion.

Richard H. Trent, representative of the custodian here says that indications are the applications for the stock will be heavy and they will by no means be confined to big buyers, the interest in the formation of the new company and its relation is wide spread, he says, and as applications of intention to apply have been coming to him, he is in a position to know.

Thus the business of H. Hackfeld & Company except for the closing up of its affairs through distribution of the funds which it is to receive with the sale of stock in American Factors, Limited, is about completed and it will be but a short time before its successor is acting and has taken its position in the big business of the Territory.

JULY SHIPMENTS ARE RUNNING WITH JUNE'S

Total Will Not Differ Much From Last Month's Figures

Sugar shipments for July, up to and including yesterday, were 39,500 tons, within a week there will go in one cargo about 4000 tons and it is probable that other shipments between now and the first of the month will bring the total close to 50,000 tons for July, about the same as in June.

Movements at the rate of the past two months will not clear up the sugar in the islands before the next crop is coming in. It is possible that some further speed can be attained but present speed will bring it close to the end of calendar year before the last leaves.

The movements of June and July have been more satisfactory than earlier movements but still leave much to be desired for they are not so rapid as production and consequently sugar will continue to pile up in storage but the turn may be expected soon and production begin to decrease as various plantations close their grinding for the year. It is apparent, though, that the government is putting extra efforts into the moving of the sugar and this is showing results.

SUGAR IS SUPPLANTING CHINA'S POPPY GROWING

The planting of sugar cane in districts near Foochow in place of the inhibited poppy has of late become an important agricultural industry. About 400,000 pounds of white sugar, valued at \$800,000, were shipped to Foochow during 1917. The production of the cheaper red sugar in slab was 1,600,000 pounds.

BARBADOS PRICES RISE

During the first part of May, the following prices were quoted on the Barbados produce market: Dark crystals (96 test), \$4.40; centrifugal muscovado, \$4.75 to \$5, depending on quality and grade. Molasses—Fancy, \$0.42 per gallon; choice, \$0.43 per gallon; puncheon, \$8 each.

The Hawaiians to determine for themselves. The wage on the plantations is sure. At the end of the year there is the added bonus that comes in a lump sum and gives to many a first time opportunity to save and accumulate, thus leading upward in the industrial and social scale.

SUGAR INDUSTRY IS OF WIDEST EXTENT

Ramifications Extend In All Directions and Control Is Essential At This Time

The sugar industry may be likened to a bowlful of jelly or a spider's web—touch any part and the whole is affected.

If the United States were cut off from the seas, as the Teutonic Powers were before the collapse of Russia, our sugar situation would be precarious. We would have to depend on our domestic mainland crop of approximately one million tons, one-fourth of which is Louisiana cane and three-fourths West Indian beet. This would give us but twenty-two pounds a year per capita. The Allies being in control of the sea, however, we have been able to bring sugar from Hawaii and the Philippines sufficient to add fifteen pounds to our individual yearly consumption, and from Cuba and Porto Rico over forty pounds, sufficient for an annual consumption of over eighty pounds. This indicates the vital importance to us of sugars from overseas.

One-third Beet

One-third of the world's sugar supply comes normally from beet lands within the present battle lines of Europe. Before the war, England purchased most of her sugar from the Central Powers. With that region cut off, she turned to sources which supply the United States, principally Cuba.

In view of the demand upon Cuba for her supply, it was apparent that the mobilization of the industry would have been ineffective without the cooperation of the Cuban people. The island supplies the United States with about one-half the sugar consumed here. While Cuba has always been of vital importance to us, since the outbreak of the war this has become emphasized. Just before the establishment of the United States food administration Cuba was besieged by anxious buyers, and the price was rapidly rising.

Cuban Control Necessary

To stabilize the price in this country for refined sugar—which hinges upon the price of Cuban raws—it was necessary to stop the spirited bidding for these raws and the competition ended by the establishment of the International Sugar Committee, representing all the principal governments now at war with Germany.

The principal event of the year to the sugar industry was the execution, as of December 24, 1917, of an agreement between the International Sugar Committee, the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply, of London, and all the refineries of the United States on the one side, and representatives of Cuban interests on the other. This agreement involved international and diplomatic questions of extreme delicacy, financial difficulties of the first magnitude, and shipping problems of huge proportions.

It provided for the sale of an option upon the entire crop of Cuban sugars for the present campaign, with the exception of 50,000 tons reserved for Spain or Pan American countries. The deal was the largest of its kind in the history of sugar, involving as it did the purchase in one transaction of over \$200,000,000 of sugar, and reflects much credit upon all parties signatory to the contract. In order to finance the Cuban crop, a syndicate of bankers and others was formed, which offered to advance any part or all of the \$100,000,000 which was required.

Sugar may be called a billion-dollar industry. The amount of capital invested in the industry in the United States and near-by islands is roughly a billion dollars, and the amount of business done annually is estimated at that amount.

Many Ramifications

The ramifications of the sugar industry embrace almost every line of business. Our old third readers had a story that well illustrated these interrelationships. The story was called: "The Pudding That Took a Thousand Men To Make." The boy who looked at it was astonished to find an ordinary plum pudding enough far but a simple meal. But when he was asked to figure up the number of men required to gather the wheat, the plums, the spices and, all the number needed to make the harness for the horses that drew the plough that cultivated the land that produced the ingredients of which the pudding was made, he soon found that the estimate of one thousand men was far too low.

Even the "one cup sugar" specified in the recipe for the plum pudding was produced in the melting pan of diversified industry.

The refineries themselves use quantities of coal, barrels, jute and cotton bags, boneblack, acid, auto trucks, delivery wagons, boxes, harness, feed buckets—in fact the purchases of the refineries run the whole gamut of the supply field.—New York Evening Post.

Circuit Judge C. W. Ashford was inducted for reappointment at the annual meeting of the Bar Association of Hawaii held on Wednesday. The following were elected officers for the coming year: E. M. Watson, president; Alexander Limbav, vice-president; A. M. Crist, secretary; and E. White Sutton, treasurer. By motion passed, the president will name delegates to the coming annual convention of the American Bar Association. Dues of members of the local association who enter the war service of the country will be remitted during such service, and the treasurer was instructed to purchase \$250 worth of War Savings Stamps.

INCLINE railway between flumes. Transporting cane from a field to mill sometimes presents its difficulties. Here is a case at Maulua Gulch on Laupahoehoe Plantation where cane is transferred from flume to railway to be carried up the incline to another flume and proceed on to the mill.



LABOR PROBLEMS WORRY LOUISIANA

Bumper Crop of Cane and Corn In Sight and Difficulty Will Be To Handle Them

NEW ORLEANS, July 7.—A planter in St. Landry parish says the situation in the sugar district of Louisiana in this instance: "The question of gathering and saving our crops is our greatest problem." Another from Avoyelles says: "The corn crop is the best here in years. Sugar cane is also fine. All crops better than in a number of years." And in the meantime government officials are being overwhelmed with appeals for help in the solution of the Louisiana sugar industry's distressing labor outlook.

With a cane crop showing a condition 95 percent of perfect in July, which is several points better than it was early in June and the corn outlook 90 percent of the normal one with a cane average of about 105 percent as compared with the average last year, these labor difficulties and the more recent cane freight rate advance of twenty-five percent just approved by the Louisiana Railroad Commission together with the commencing fear that cane are not going to be over plentiful or even sufficient when the crop begins to move to the factories in the fall, become sources of great discouragement to the producers who had gone into the fight to substantially increase our production of sugar and corn with great vigor that Louisiana might contribute her full share to the Nation's larger this year. Every parish sends in its quota of wonderful crop reports and the lowest crop condition average is found in those parishes on the western end of the belt where local droughts have served to keep the crop down to around better than normal by about four and a half percent while Jefferson and La Fourche are just a little better than normal with West Feliciana, West Baton Rouge, St. Bernard, East Baton Rouge, Plaquemine, Iberville, Iberia and Vermilion reporting perfectly normal cane with corn prospect a little less favorable.

Consideration of possible plans to this end has been confined entirely to unofficial circles, so far as can be learned. There has been nothing to indicate that the Food Administration is giving serious attention to the project as a possibility of the present, and from sources in touch with Dutch official circles it is learned that the Netherlands Government has not deviated from the policy maintained from the beginning of the war, of keeping its hands off and leaving the Javanese producer to struggle with his own market problem.

In trade circles, however, and especially among the representatives of Dutch and East Indian commercial interests, the possibility of finding a market for a part of the Java crop in this country is attracting fresh attention, and developments in the sugar situation here are being carefully watched for their bearing upon the prospects of such an arrangement. In this connection interest is shown in the plans of the Food Administration to arrange for larger shipments of sugar from the Philippines to this country.

Ships the Main Difficulty

The great obstacles in the way of making shipments to the United States is, of course, the lack of available shipping, together with the high ocean freight rates prevailing. The Dutch East India shipping fleet, as well as that of the Netherlands proper, has been depleted by the reorganization measures taken by the United States and Great Britain during the past year, so that inter island service, as well as that between the Dutch possessions and other countries, has been much curtailed. There is at present a regular weekly service between Java and San Francisco, and a service fortnightly between Java and New York via Panama. The steamers plying on these routes, however, have no difficulty in obtaining full cargoes of more profitable freight than sugar and, in fact, are unable to carry all the commodities of other kinds which are offered.

JAVA HOPING FOR AMERICAN MARKET

Immense Quantity of Last Crop In Storage and New Crop Is Soon Coming On

NEW YORK, July 7.—With the increasing probability that supplies from sources at present available will prove barely sufficient to supply the needs of the United States for the remainder of 1918, even under the strict restriction on consumption put into effect by the Food Administration at the beginning of this month, there has been a revival of discussion in quarters interested in the East Indian trade of the possibility of making arrangements to bring a part of the huge accumulated stock of sugar in Java to this country.

Possible Plans Considered

No definite conclusions were reached, but the Cuban commissioners have been requested to submit a brief showing the cost of production of sugar in Cuba at the present time and the anticipated increase in the cost of the 1918 crop as compared with the cost of the production of the 1917 crop. The purchase of the 1917 crop was arranged for by the International Sugar Committee last November, and the crop was bought at 4.60 basis f.o.b. Cuba, which was equivalent to 6.005, duty paid, landed in American ports.

No indication has been given by those present at the conference today as to the trend of discussion regarding the price that will be paid for the next crop.

The conference was adjourned to meet within ten days, to consider statements to be presented by the Cuban commission.

ISLAND BOY HANKERS FOR HAWAII COFFEE

"I haven't had a good cup of coffee since I left Honolulu," is the way Alvin E. Melim, an island boy with the Thirty-fourth Engineers at Fort Ben Harrison, makes a plea to his father that he be sent some of the island berries. Young Melim is the son of T. P. Melim, the superintendent of mails at the postoffice. He left here with the engineer volunteers for whom the "Aloha Parade" was given.

Melim Senior has mailed his son three pounds of the island's best coffee. How the young volunteer is to manage to have it cooked and served

CUBAN PLANTERS TO SEEK NEW PRICE

Take Steps At Meeting To Secure Increase Under Expected Contract For New Crop

HAVANA, June 27.—The general meeting of hacendados and colonos, held in Matanzas on June 23 to consider the questions of sugar prices and labor for the coming crop, has been the event of the week in the Cuban sugar world. The gathering was noteworthy as the largest and most harmonious of the kind ever held in Cuba, furnishing a marked contrast in this respect to that held in Havana last fall. Nearly 1500 persons, it is estimated, were present in the Teatro Sauto, where the meeting took place, and the discussion was marked by the greatest cordiality and by a unanimous feeling that the producers must obtain a higher price for the next crop if the largest possible output is to be obtained.

Among those in attendance were members of both houses of congress, representatives of many local organizations of colonos, owners and managers of a large number of sugar centrals, and numerous individual cane growers. It is estimated that the producers of 10,000,000 bags, or about 1,600,000 tons, of the annual Cuban crop were present or represented at the meeting. It was particularly noteworthy that the cane growers of the central and western provinces were more generally represented than those from Oriente and Camaguey. It is in these provinces, where the proportion of old lands in cultivation is greatest, that the burden of present conditions is most heavily felt, whereas in Camaguey and Oriente the growers are still largely using practically virgin soil.

The general tone of the meeting, as already stated, was most harmonious, and it was observable that throughout a unanimous desire was expressed to take no action that would counter the aims of the governments of Cuba and the United States or that would not be in accord with Cuba's position as one of the nations allied against Germany. There was no evidence of a desire for exorbitant profits, but only for an increase in the price set for sugar sufficient to offset the heavy expenses of production under present conditions, to assure a reasonable return to the producer, with due consideration of the risks which he is obliged to incur, and so to justify the growers in endeavoring to make the next crop the largest possible.

Committee Appointed

The procedure decided upon as a result of the deliberations was the appointment of a committee, to be known as the National Producers' Committee, for the purpose of collecting facts and figures relative to the results of the past crop and the losses sustained by the producers and arranging them for presentation to the authorities in the United States responsible for the determining of prices.

DISCUSSION OPENED WITHOUT ANY DELAY

At a conference held recently at the offices of the food administration, attended by Senor Carlos Manuel Cespedes, Cuban minister to the United States, R. B. Hawley and Manuel R. Ronda, special commissioners appointed by the President of Cuba, General H. H. Morgan, formerly of the state department and at present representing the United States food administration in Cuba, and representatives of the United States government and the International Sugar Committee, plans for the purchase of the Cuban crop, 1918-19 were discussed.

No definite conclusions were reached, but the Cuban commissioners have been requested to submit a brief showing the cost of production of sugar in Cuba at the present time and the anticipated increase in the cost of the 1918 crop as compared with the cost of the production of the 1917 crop. The purchase of the 1917 crop was arranged for by the International Sugar Committee last November, and the crop was bought at 4.60 basis f.o.b. Cuba, which was equivalent to 6.005, duty paid, landed in American ports.

No indication has been given by those present at the conference today as to the trend of discussion regarding the price that will be paid for the next crop.

The conference was adjourned to meet within ten days, to consider statements to be presented by the Cuban commission.

ISLAND BOY HANKERS FOR HAWAII COFFEE

"I haven't had a good cup of coffee since I left Honolulu," is the way Alvin E. Melim, an island boy with the Thirty-fourth Engineers at Fort Ben Harrison, makes a plea to his father that he be sent some of the island berries. Young Melim is the son of T. P. Melim, the superintendent of mails at the postoffice. He left here with the engineer volunteers for whom the "Aloha Parade" was given.

Melim Senior has mailed his son three pounds of the island's best coffee. How the young volunteer is to manage to have it cooked and served

PHILIPPINE SUGAR CROP TO BE MOVED

Lurline, Manoa, Persia Maru and Justin Will Carry Balance of the Crop

NEW YORK, July 7.—With the prospect that sugar supplies from nearby sources of production will be inadequate to meet the full demand during the final six months of the year the food administration and other governmental authorities are displaying decided interest in the possibility of bringing into the American market the balance of the current Philippine crop. Facts about sugar, reports. The project of drawing upon this distant field of American production has assumed increased importance in view of the demands of France, Italy, and the American army abroad, which are heavier than was anticipated earlier in the year.

Plans have been carefully canvassed in official circles during the past two weeks by which it is hoped that it may be possible to bring to Pacific ports the greater part and perhaps all of the Philippine sugar remaining unshipped. George H. Fairchild, of Welch, Fairchild and Company, Manila and New York, has been in Washington for several weeks as the representative of Philippine interests, endeavoring to arrange for the movement of various insular products needed in the United States. Governor-General Harrison of the Philippines also has interested himself in the matter. Through their efforts, which have been favored by certain developments in the existing situation, it is now believed that Philippine sugar will begin to reach San Francisco in quantity during August or September, and that this movement will continue until the bulk of the remaining Philippine supply has been transferred to various markets of the United States.

One turn in the state of affairs that has caused the federal authorities to look with a more favorable eye upon the proposal for bringing Philippine sugar to this market is the improvement in the shipping situation during recent weeks. Another factor that has helped has been the placing of cargo upon the restricted list. The most serious obstacle that remains to be overcome is the high freight rate prevailing between Manila and San Francisco. The official rate is \$35 a ton, but \$40 a ton is being demanded by steamship companies, and it is asserted by Philippine producers that this rate, with prevailing high insurance charges, will not allow a net return sufficient to meet the cost of production. It is expected that this matter will receive the further attention of the shipping board and the food administration, and that some satisfactory solution of the problem will be reached either by the regulation of tonnage rates or in some other manner.

Four This Month

It is already decided that four steamships will leave for the Philippines during the present month and will return with cargoes of sugar. These are the Lurline, Manoa, Persia Maru, and Justin. The two former are consigned to Welch, Fairchild and Company, the Persia Maru to the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, and the Justin to the Dollar Steamship Company. They probably will be able to transport 15,000 to 20,000 tons of Philippine centrifugals on the voyage for which they are now chartered, depending upon the proportions in which their cargo space is divided between hemp and sugar.

According to latest advices received from Manila the amount of Philippine sugar available for shipment is roundly 175,000 long tons, of which approximately 50,000 tons are centrifugal and 125,000 tons are muscovado. It is believed that first efforts will be directed to the transport of the centrifugals and that later on, if tonnage is available, the muscovados will be brought over.

In view of the tentative plan of the food administration to transfer to the Atlantic seaboard a larger proportion of Hawaiian raw shipments than has been the practice in recent months, it has been suggested that the Philippine sugar might be refined on the Pacific Coast. No definite action has been taken in this matter, as the primary concern is to find means of moving the sugar to United States ports.

GETTING FOURTH LIBERTY BONDS READY IN TIME

Bonds of the Fourth Liberty Loan are now being turned out by the thousands daily by the treasury's bureau of engraving and printing. The bonds are similar in form and design to those of the third loan, and space has been left on each bond for insertion of the exact terms of the bonds.

It is believed that a sufficient number of the bonds will be ready to make possible immediate delivery of all bonds of the fourth loan as they are purchased.

is a problem the boy will have to decide, the father says.

Private Melim tells of all the training he has been in reaching his country post, but adds that none of it is equal to Hawaii. The island boy expresses the belief that if all the rest of the world, which he expects to see later, is no better than what he has seen already "Hawaii is really the best place in the world."